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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9320
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 3368
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 0103
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 1607
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1575
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA 3130
RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS DAR ES SALAAM 000097

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

AF/E FOR JTREADWELL
OES/ENRC FOR LLOYD GAMBLE

ADDIS ABABA PASS TO REO KIRSTEN BAUMAN

INTERIOR FOR USFWS MICHELLE GADD, RICHARD RUGGIERO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [KSCA](#) [CITES](#) [AORC](#) [UNEP](#) [TZ](#) [KE](#)
SUBJECT: CITES: TANZANIA PUSHES FOR IVORY SALES

REF: A.09 STATE 125262 B. STATE 6668

¶1. (U) SUMMARY. In a January 28 meeting with Econoff, Tanzania Director of Wildlife Erasmus Tarimo sought U.S. support for Tanzania's proposal to "downlist" the African elephant at the upcoming CITES meeting, so as to permit Tanzania to sell its ivory stockpile. Tarimo expressed mild interest in the U.S. CITES proposals. Tarimo also provided an update on Tanzania's plan to import rhinos from South Africa to Serengeti National Park in Spring 2010. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) Tarimo took the opportunity of Econoff's visit to press for Tanzania's proposal to downlist the African elephant from Appendix I to Appendix II, which he said would allow a "one-off" sale of Tanzanian (and other) ivory stockpiles. Likening the ban on the ivory trade to the failed U.S. attempt to enforce prohibition of alcohol, Tarimo argued that the ban increases the international price of ivory without deterring poaching. He said Tanzania lacks the capacity to stop poaching because of its huge land area, limited resources, and the limitless demand of the Asian market, not to mention traders who corrupt Tanzanian officials. Tarimo added that the USD 20 million estimated proceeds from a sale would be used for anti-poaching activities, while maintaining the existing stockpiles diverted government funds from more effective uses. Tarimo suggested sales would also benefit local communities currently implicated in increasing human-elephant competition for land; if the communities saw the value, they would appreciate and protect the elephants. Tarimo acknowledged that Kenya opposed Tanzania's proposal; he commented that Kenya's elephant population continued to decline, despite a hunting ban and anti-poaching efforts, while Tanzanian elephants continued to increase.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: We understand that the U.S. position on Tanzania's proposal remains under review. Without addressing the broader effects of the proposal, we question whether Tanzania would devote all proceeds from a sale to anti-poaching, in particular if the sale were to occur in 2010, an election year. We doubt Tanzania would agree to third-party custodianship of proceeds from ivory sales. End Comment.

¶4. (U) With respect to ref B demarche, Tarimo and his two deputies were mildly supportive of our proposal to organize a workshop on snake trade regulation. He had no comment on the U.S. shark proposal and said Tanzania would likely support placing red and pink corals under CITES Appendix II, which would allow for licensed trade. Tarimo said he would attend the March 13-25 CITES meeting, as would Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Shamsa Mwangunga and

the ministry's Permanent Secretary. He said Fisheries would also be represented, but had no additional information about the delegation.

¶5. (U) Tarimo said plans were proceeding to reintroduce ten East African rhino currently in South Africa to Serengeti National Park in May 2010, an operation with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Frankfurt Zoological Society, and the Paul Tudor Jones Family Foundation. He noted funding had only been identified to fly in this first batch, but that more support was needed to eventually bring in an additional 22 rhinos. He stressed the rhinos would be well-monitored and cared for en route.

¶6. (U) Point of contact on ESTH issues at post is Econoff Emily Shaffer. She can be reached at +255-266-8001 X4521 or shafferec@state.gov.

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